

## BEAVERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

# GENERAL ORDER

NUMBER: 10.04.00  
SUBJECT: CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATION  
EFFECTIVE: MAY 23, 2008  
REVIEW: MAY 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013

1. **POLICY.** It is the express policy of the department to actively seek out, aggressively investigate and prosecute situations that involve child abuse and/or neglect. It is the policy of our agency to be sensitive to the victim while conducting a thorough child abuse investigation.
2. **REPORTS.** An inquiry and investigation shall be conducted upon receipt of any allegation concerning child abuse and/or neglect. A report documenting the inquiry and investigation will be completed.
3. **AWARENESS.** Officers responding to domestic violence, aid, or other calls involving children shall be vigilant for evidence or indications of child abuse and/or neglect. If indicators are present, in addition to the matter currently at hand, inquiries and/or investigation shall be conducted to either confirm or refute a history of child abuse or neglect.
4. **ASSISTING THE VICTIM.** Employees are expected to assist the victim by exhibiting an age appropriate attitude of understanding, patience and respect while attempting to build trust and rapport. It is important that the child know they are not responsible for the crime being investigated and that they are not in trouble for what happened.
5. **PROTECTIVE CUSTODY.** If an officer reasonably believes that a child's welfare would be jeopardized if left in the child's condition or surroundings, the child shall be taken into protective custody and evaluated by the DHS or the juvenile department after appropriate placement. This is authorized under ORS. Officers are encouraged to utilize their full power under the child abuse laws when dealing with suspected cases of child abuse or neglect. In the event a child is taken into protective custody, the county juvenile department will be contacted immediately. If the child must be removed as a victim, DHS will make alternate placements if appropriate. If the child is an offender, the juvenile department will decide about custody and placement.
6. **DHS/JUVENILE DEPARTMENT ADVICE.** In those incidents in which a specific course of action is not apparent, officers shall contact the supervisor or representative of DHS or the Juvenile Department. A complete incident report shall be forwarded to DHS in all incidents involving suspected or alleged child abuse and/or neglect, even if unfounded.

7. DEFINITIONS:

A. Suspicious Physical Injury:

- Burns or scalds;
- Extensive bruising or abrasions on any part of the body;
- Bruising, swelling or abrasions on the head, neck or face;
- Fractures of any bone in a child under the age of three;
- Multiple fractures in a child of any age;
- Dislocations, soft tissue swelling or moderate to severe cuts;
- Loss of the ability to walk or move normally according to the child's developmental ability;
- Unconsciousness or difficulty maintaining consciousness;
- Multiple injuries of different types;
- Injuries causing serious or protracted disfigurement or loss of impairment of the function of any bodily organ
- Any other injury that threatens the physical well being of the child.

B. DMP - Designated Medical Professional:

1. Local DMP's for pediatrics; CARES, St. Vincent's, OHSU, Emanuel

8. PROCEDURES.

A) If an Officer receiving a report or conducting an investigation of Child Abuse under ORS 419B.020 observes a child who has suffered suspicious physical injury and the Officer has a reasonable suspicion that the injury may be the result of abuse, the Officer shall:

1. Immediately photograph the suspicious physical injury. The Officer shall photograph the child;
  - a) Each time suspicious physical injury is observed by an Officer;
  - b) During the investigation of a new allegation of abuse;
  - c) If the injury was not previously observed by the Officer conducting the investigation;
  - d) Photographs shall be taken regardless of whether the child has previously been photographed or assessed during an investigation of an allegation of abuse.
    - i. Photographs of the anal and/or genital area may be taken only by medical personnel.

2. The Officer will place the photographs into Property/Evidence within 48 hours of taking or causing the photographs to be taken.
  3. In addition to placing the photographs into Property/Evidence, the Officer will provide either prints or electronic copies of the photographs to the designated Medical Professional within 48 hours of taking or causing the photographs to be taken.
- B. An Officer conducting an investigation under ORS 419B.020 and who observes suspicious physical injury and the Officer has a reasonable suspicion that the injury may be the result of abuse, shall make a reasonable effort to locate and present the child to a designated Medical Professional within 48 hours, or sooner if dictated by the child's medical needs, of the reported abuse for a medical assessment.
- 1) If after a reasonable effort, a designated medical professional is not available to conduct a medical assessment within 48 hours, the child shall be evaluated by an available physician.
  - 2) If the Officer is unable to facilitate the child's medical assessment with a designated Medical Professional or Physician during the initial investigation, the Officer shall notify his/her on duty Supervisor and advise him/her of the delay. Once being notified that the initial Officer was unable to facilitate the child's medical assessment, the Sergeant will be responsible for follow up to ensure the child is seen within the 48 hour timeline. This follow can be, but is not limited to, the notifying of the oncoming Supervisor of the delay.
    - a. In any such delay of the child's medical assessment, the Supervisor will be responsible for facilitating/reassignment the child's medical assessment within the 48 hour timeline.
- C. Officers shall complete and submit all reports as soon as practical to ensure compliance with the 48 hour timeline.
- 1) Officer's reports shall contain the following information:
    - a. The photographs taken, the photographs submission to Property/Evidence and the photographs submission to the designated Medical Professional;
    - b. The designated Medical Professional the child was referred to for the medical assessment or;
    - c. The reasonable effort the Officer made to locate a designated Medical Professional and if not available, the physician providing the medical assessment to the child;

- d. The Supervisor the Officer advised if there is a delay in the facilitating the child's medical assessment with a designated Medical Professional or physician.

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Chief of Police

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Date